

Pennfield Press

March 2019 Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pennfield Presbyterian Church

Growing Through Faith, Family, and Fellowship

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www.pennfieldpresbyterian.org



PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Dear Friends,

The longer daylight hours are announcing the coming of spring. Spring means new life, new growth, new beauty. In the church, spring goes by a different name. We name it after the “lengthening of days,” Lent for short. Lent involves the forty-day period prior to Easter. It is a time of preparing ourselves for the new life that comes in Christ, the new birth, the new beginning.

Since Easter is a movable feast, Lent is too. This year, we start the Lenten journey on March 6 with Ash Wednesday. We will be joined in this service that includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion by our sister church, First Presbyterian Church, and its pastors.

For five weeks all through March, we will have the opportunity to prepare ourselves in community for our Sunday scripture reading and the preaching text. Please commit to a Lenten discipline by participating in a Lenten small group. There are five groups available meeting on Sundays and throughout the week, some in the morning, one in the evening. They are being facilitated by Lois Shubert, Deanna Stults, Trina Sleper, Bart Sleper, Mark Baxter, and Tom Beaver. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and we trust that you will commit to one group. Groups will begin meeting on Sunday, March 10. The groups will meet for about an hour for five weeks and members will pray together, read scripture, and meditate on the biblical text. The scripture passages studied are all from the Gospel of John. They are stories about people who met Jesus, stories of people like us.

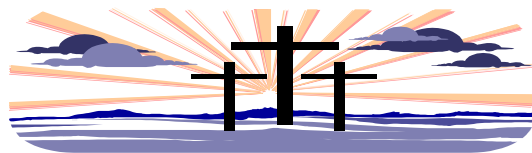
Lent is often associated with giving up something, such as a favorite food. But it can also mean taking on an added task and the giving of our time. In addition to the Lenten study, we are also offering a 6-week yoga class for beginners. This was an idea that had come out of the congregational retreat last November.

I am excited about this opportunity to exercise our bodies and enhance our health and well-being. Our yoga instructor is Amanda Wallace, a seasoned practitioner and experienced with adjusting to our particular needs. The class will start on Monday, March 11. Each class will last for one hour and the cost is \$7 per person, per visit. Please sign up for the class in the Narthex, so we have a better count, and don't forget to invite a friend.

Finally, on Sunday, March 3 after worship we are hosting our first ever Mardi Gras potluck. Mardi Gras, which is French for Fat Tuesday, is the day before Ash Wednesday when larders are emptied and where one gets to indulge in good food and fun. Often, it also involves dressing up in costume. For our celebration on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday, please bring a dish to pass, an entree, a salad or side dish, or a dessert, and come dressed for the occasion. Please sign up in the Narthex, so we can better plan for the meal. And if you don't have the appropriate gear or costume, we will dress you for the occasion with hats, beads, and feather boas.

So, let's enter this Lenten season with joy in our heart and the expectation that God is about to do a great thing in us through Christ.

With love and joy,
Pastor Annemarie



LENTEN JOURNEY AND EASTER

March 3 Mardi Gras Service and potluck

March 6 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday and Communion Service

April 14 Palm Sunday with Drama

One Great Hour of Sharing dedication

April 18 Maundy Thursday

Service at First Presbyterian Church

6:00 p.m. Meal

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

April 21 Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Sunrise service followed by breakfast

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Mardi Gras Potluck on Sunday, March 3



We will celebrate with good food and fun the last Sunday before Lent. Bring a dish to pass, which can be an entree, a side dish/salad, or a dessert, and join in on the fellowship. You can come dressed up in your favorite character and if you lack costume, we'll have supplies at hand to help you with the transformation. In addition to beads, paper hats, and feather boas, we will also have some entertainment in song, story-telling, and more.

Lenten Study Small Groups

Please sign up in the Narthex for one of the small groups. Each group will meet for about an hour. Groups will begin meeting on **Sunday, March 10** for five weeks. The groups will study the upcoming preaching text for the following Sunday.



Here are the groups:

- Sun., 3/10 11:30 a.m. 5-week Lenten Bible Study-Lois Shubert in the Library
- Sun., 3/10 11:30 a.m. 5-week Lenten Bible Study-Deanna Stults in the Music Room.
- Mon., 3/11 7:00 p.m. 5-week Lenten Bible Study-Trina Sleper in the Library
- Tue., 3/12 11:00 a.m. 5-week Lenten Bible Study-Mark Baxter & Bart Sleper in the Library
- Thu., 3/14 10:00 a.m. 5-week Lenten Bible Study-Tom Beaver in the Library

Pastor's Bible Study

During Lent, there will be no Pastor's Bible study as the Lenten small groups will take its place.



Adult Education Class on the Wired Word

On Sunday after worship, the Wired Word adult education class will continue to meet. Their new meeting space during Lent will be downstairs in the Youth Room.

Stewardship

Last month we talked about reaching our first safe harbor on our voyage into the future. We highlighted our Stewardship Campaign and focused on our transition theme, "May the Spirit of God Fill Our Sails". We introduced the next phase of our voyage, with focus upon cleaning and renewing our church home and strengthening the depth and weight of our spiritual keel.

How are we doing? First, we have embarked upon the task of cleaning, painting and renewing our worship building, under the leadership of Lois Shubert, and the hands, hearts and talents of the Property and Finance crew, plus members of the body laboring with them. Take a walk around all areas and notice the beauty of this House of God.

Second, we are studying the words of scripture under the unique knowledge and ability of Pastor Annemarie, to reveal the journey and message of Jesus' ministry. The Tuesday Bible Study class has outgrown the library and now meets in the choir room. If you haven't been able to attend, ask Pastor Annemarie to show you the class photos and join us if you are able.

May God Bless Our Journey. --Burrel Stults, Stewardship Committee

Copies of Sermons

If you have missed any of Pastor Annemarie's sermons, you may contact Burrel Stults, who will e-mail them to you. His e-mail address is acornecove@aol.com or call 269-721-8166.



Worship & Music Committee

The Worship and Music committee's focus this month has been preparing for Lent with study, meditation, worship and prayer. There will be a five-week Lenten study on the Gospel of John scheduled so that everyone's schedule can be accommodated. Ecumenical services with First Presbyterian Church are planned for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. There will be special music as well as music with lyrics written by Pastor Kidder that will enhance Lenten and Easter worship. We will celebrate the Risen Christ Easter morning at sunrise at 7:30 a.m. as well as at 10:00 a.m.



Deacons' News

One of the jobs the deacons have each month is to decorate the bulletin board in the narthex, and I was currently tasked with decorating the February board. Initially the idea was to “tweak” the January board that was covered with winter scenes, icicles, and snowflakes, but it quickly became apparent this wasn’t going to work. There was nothing to do but take all of the January scenery down and start over.

I began by going through the valentine supplies from previous years, and found a tablecloth with hearts on one side, and some pink borders. This still left a large white rectangle and no ideas how to fill it. I then discovered some construction paper hearts I’d not seen previously in our supply boxes. They looked to have been made by the children in our youth group, and on closer inspection I found two hearts that were made by my children as well as a heart made by Zoe. The topic she had chosen was “I know Jesus loves me because...” and each person filled in how they knew they were loved by Jesus. The discovery of these hearts made over 6 years ago by Zoe and some of the many children she loved so dearly, felt like an unexpected, but very welcome gift.

The deacons are also here to offer love, support, and assistance. We have started a new ministry to our homebound and hospitalized members. Every Tuesday, one deacon is scheduled to join Pastor Annemarie to visit some of our homebound and hospitalized members. Additionally, if you or anyone you know in the congregation has any special needs, please feel free to contact any of the deacons. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we seek to bring healing and love to those who are part of our community of faith.

--Ruth TenBroek, Co-Moderator of Deacons



Property & Finance Committee

Building repair update:

Many original windows needed sanding and refinishing. The lower level wall was repaired and the new windows all needed painting. This was completed thanks to our dedicated workers!

Cleaning God's House:

We are in the process of deep cleaning each room. Cleaning closets, shelves, etc. is in progress. If you have an hour or two to help clean, please call the office or see Lois Shubert.

Garage Sale

On Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17 we will sponsor our next Garage Sale. We need your stuff. The winter days give us time to clean our house, basement, garage or shed. We know it is time to lighten our load and downsize. Start collecting now – more details to follow. No clothing please.

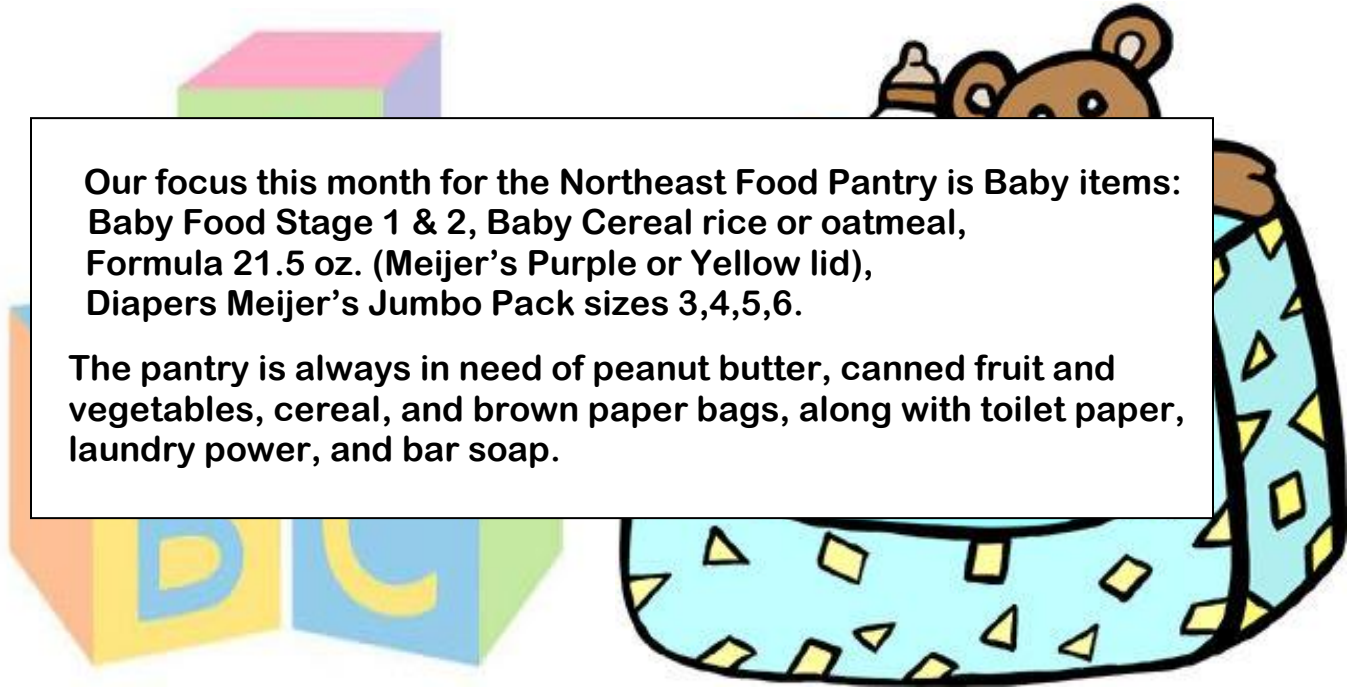
--Lois Shubert, Chair of Property and Finance

Food Bank

The Food Bank of South Central Michigan (FBSCM) will again be holding its annual Food Bank Challenge running from March 1-April 30. The Food Bank will do a 10% match for all donations made during this time. Since this challenge is a main source of income for the Northeast Pantry, it is important that donations to the pantry be made during this period.

Please send checks made out to FBSCM with Northeast Food Pantry in the memo line to ensure that Northeast Pantry gets credit for your contribution.

Thank you for helping the pantry feed the hungry in the Pennfield neighborhood. There are contribution cards available in the narthex. Any questions, see Laurie Riley, Coordinator of the Northeast Food Pantry Outreach Ministry



Our focus this month for the Northeast Food Pantry is Baby items: Baby Food Stage 1 & 2, Baby Cereal rice or oatmeal, Formula 21.5 oz. (Meijer's Purple or Yellow lid), Diapers Meijer's Jumbo Pack sizes 3,4,5,6.

The pantry is always in need of peanut butter, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, and brown paper bags, along with toilet paper, laundry power, and bar soap.

Please keep bringing your Family Fare receipts to benefit the Northeast Food Pantry. Put them in the basket on the table in the narthex. –Laurie Riley



New Yoga Class to start on Monday, March 11

We are excited to be able to offer a 6-week yoga class for beginners starting Monday, March 11, at 9 a.m. Do you lack exercise? Do you want to trim down a little? Here is an easy way to do your body some good. Our yoga instructor, Amanda Wallace (pictured—you guess who), will make things easy, so we won't be challenged and strained too much. Amanda will also bring mats. Cost is \$7 per person per visit.

Prayers Please

Prayers

Remember our members and friends who are homebound, ill, recuperating or have concerns and need your prayer:

Karen Lewis, Joann Preston, Geri Outman, Carla Stine-King. Glea Anthonissen

Our condolences to the family of Harold Mohlman who passed away on Dec. 10 and to the family of Kay Edgerton Withee who passed away on February 14. Kay's committal service will be in the Memorial Garden here on May 5, 2019. A card or a call would brighten their day.



NEW – The Harold Mohlman Music Fund

We are grateful to the wife of the late Harold Mohlman for making a bequest to start a new music fund at our church. Glea Anthonissen has designated that this fund will underwrite and support the music program at our church. Harold loved music and he loved to sing, as does Glea. This fund will make possible the hiring of soloists and instrumentalists to enhance our worship. If you would like to give to this fund in memory of Harold, please mark your check accordingly on the memo line.



Giving our Singing a Boost

Music and song in worship enhances our praise, our prayer, and the glory given to our Lord. The texts of hymns are selected by the pastor based on the preaching text. And often, it turns out, these hymns are not familiar to the congregation. Our Ladies' Chorus only sings on the second Sunday of the month, our Chancel Choir only on the third. That leaves two Sundays (for most months) without a strong voice to lead and support the congregation in song. How fortunate for us that **Thom Outman** has agreed to serve as our cantor and song leader on these two Sundays. Thom will receive a small stipend for this service underwritten by the new Mohlman Music Fund. We are grateful to Thom for his exceptional gift in music and for being willing to make us strong in worship and praise.

PW Happening

April 27, 2019 LMPW Gathering will meet at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven. All are welcome. Cost is \$15.00. Speakers are from First Hand Aid and the People's Center.

Staff

Pastor – Rev. Annemarie S. Kidder

Secretary - Jean R. Smith

Organist - Esther Rayburn

Sub-Organist - Gayla Metzger

Custodian - Mark Baxter

28 Eric & Beth Tucker

SERVERS FOR MARCH

GREETERS:

- Mar. 3 The Jordan Family
- 10 Tom & Chris Beaver
- 17 Erin & Sara Galloway
- 24 Richard & Kathy Adler
- 31 Jim & Gay Noble

COMMUNION SERVERS:

- Karen & Bruce Newhard
- Ruth TenBroek & Mark Atma

USHERS:

- Mar. 3 Bruce & Karen Newhard
- 10 Dan LaValley & Mark Baxter
- 17 Harry Scheuffele & Marty Pierson
- 24 Jeanette & Steve Higgs
- 31 Marie & Mitch Hull

LAY READERS:

- Mar. 3 Cathy LaValley
- 10 Aaron Jordan
- 17 Trina Sleper
- 24 Bill Rothney
- 31 Jay Moore

LOCK UP:

- Mar. 3 Jay Moore
- 10 Steve Higgs
- 17 Burrel Stults
- 24 Dan LaValley
- 31 Tom Beaver

COFFEE & CONVERSATION:

- Mar. 3 Jay & Sally Moore
- 10 Steve & Jeanette Higgs
- 17 Burrel & Deanna Stults
- 24 Elsie Page & Christy Halbert
- 31 Donna Teichman & Kathy Lyon

NURSERY:

- Mar. 3 Burrel & Deanna Stults
- 10 Bart & Trina Sleper
- 17 Elsie Page & Joan Jarrard
- 24 Bruce & Karen Newhard
- 31 Burrel & Deanna Stults

COUNTERS:

Debbie Trayer & Kathy Heath

SERVERS FOR APRIL

USHERS:

- April 7 Darrell & Marcia VanVleet
- 14 Richard & Kathy Adler
- 21 Dan & Cathy LaValley

COMMUNION USHERS: Darrell & Marcia VanVleet
Kathy Lyon & Cathy Walsh

COUNTERS: Darrell VanVleet & Bev Grimes

GREETERS:

- April 7 Esther Rayburn & Christine Ayres
- 14 LuAnne Pierson & Kathy Lyon
- 21 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer
- 28 Marcie & Darrell VanVleet

LAY READER:

- April 7 Carla Stine-King
- 14 Trina Sleper
- 21 Cathy LaValley
- 28 Bill Rothney

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

- April 7 The Jordan Family
- 14 Erin & Sara Galloway
- 21 The Atma Family
- 28 Dennis & Sandy Shaffer

LOCK UP:

- April 7 Bruce Newhard
- 14 Bill Rothney
- 21 Mark Atma
- 28 Mark Baxter

NURSERY:

- April 7 Bart & Trina Sleper
- 14 Elsie Page & Joan Jarrard
- 21 Bruce & Karen Newhard
- 28 Burrel & Deanna Stults



March 8: Keith & Michelle Martens



- March 2: Barb Walker
- 15: Hope Crisher
- 16: Jeff Jarrard
- 18: Kent Elliot
- 19: Emily Jarrard
- 21: Jim Fleming
- 23: Helen Smith
- 27: Jim Doty
Cassie Cope
- 29: Haneul Ann Park
Iseul May Park

March 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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